



Art in the smart sustainable city: values, visions and engagement

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- Image a smart, sustainable urban community, however you define “smart” and “sustainable”; most importantly *somewhere you would want to live*. Your utopia.
- Close your eyes, and mentally note how the place is laid out, in terms of streets, buildings, public spaces, parks, homes, work places, shopping, transport, etc. How do the people who live there interact and what do they do? How does the built environment relate to the natural environment?
- *Draw* a map, plan, picture or other symbolic representation of this place. Drawing quality doesn't matter.
- Create a *list of key words/ characteristics* that convey the sustainable aspects of this place. Each member then presents their map to the rest of the team. Ask only clarifying questions at this point.



Art in the smart sustainable city: values, visions and engagement

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Characteristics:

Scoping

Health & well being

(Activity, recreation, and art encouraged in the design)

Human scale

(Priority given to pedestrians, bikes)

Beauty (inspiring, green)

Shared space & community

(community balconies, urban garden)

Integrated economy

(Businesses and homes co-located)

Repurposing of existent structures

(mine tower -> train station, arts center and café)

(Freight rail converted to electric light rail)

(mining tunnel converted apartments and community living)

Integration with natural environment

(green space, trees, nature trails)

Renewable energy

(solar, wind, micro-hydro)

Public transport

Connection to food

(rooftop garden; garden bridges)





Which characteristics did you come up with?

What does that say about what you value?



Values

Visions

Engagement





Values

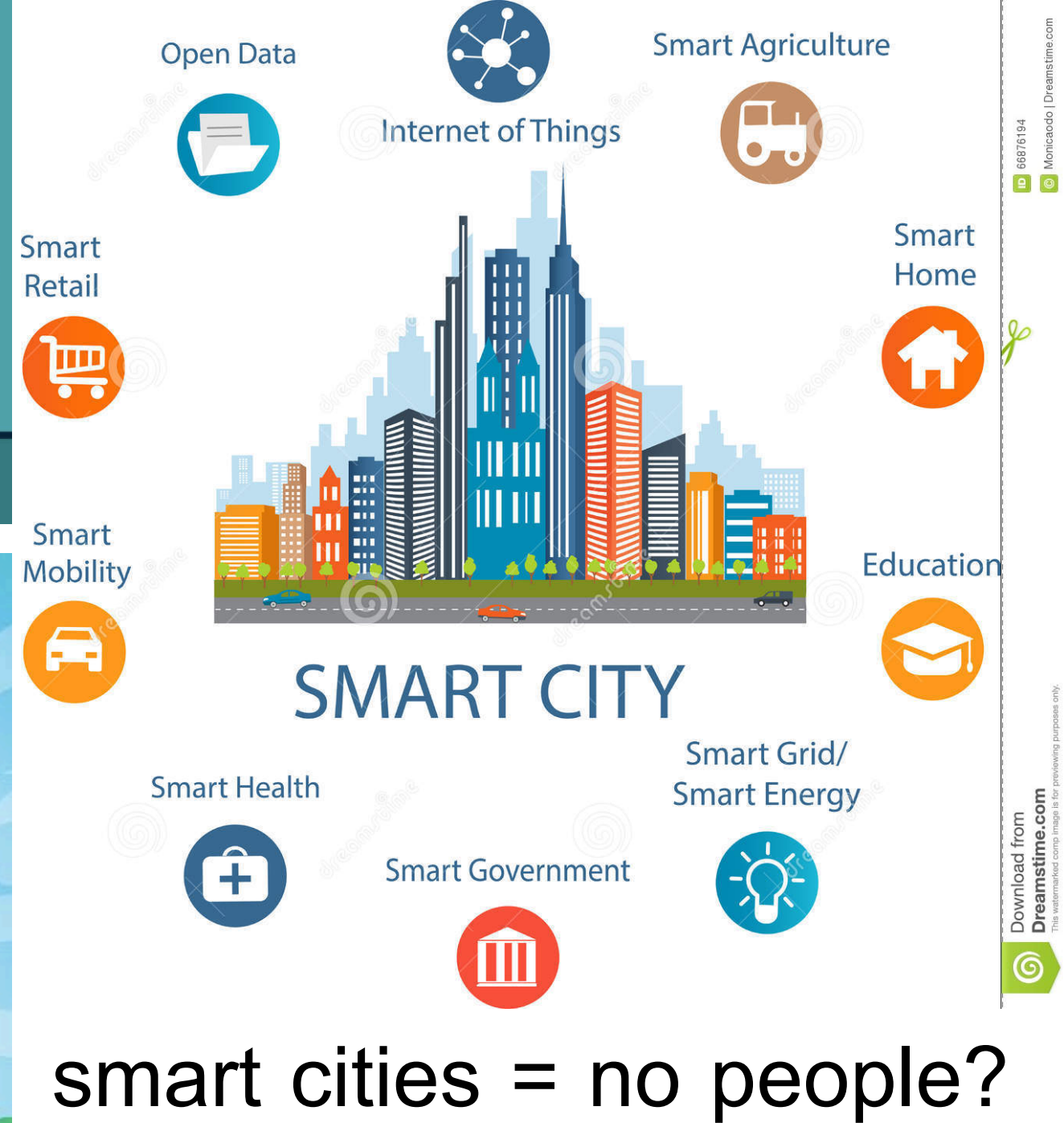
“If we want to get the design of smart cities right, we need to take into account local quirks and involve citizens in their creation”

(Smart Cities by Anthony Townsend, 2013)

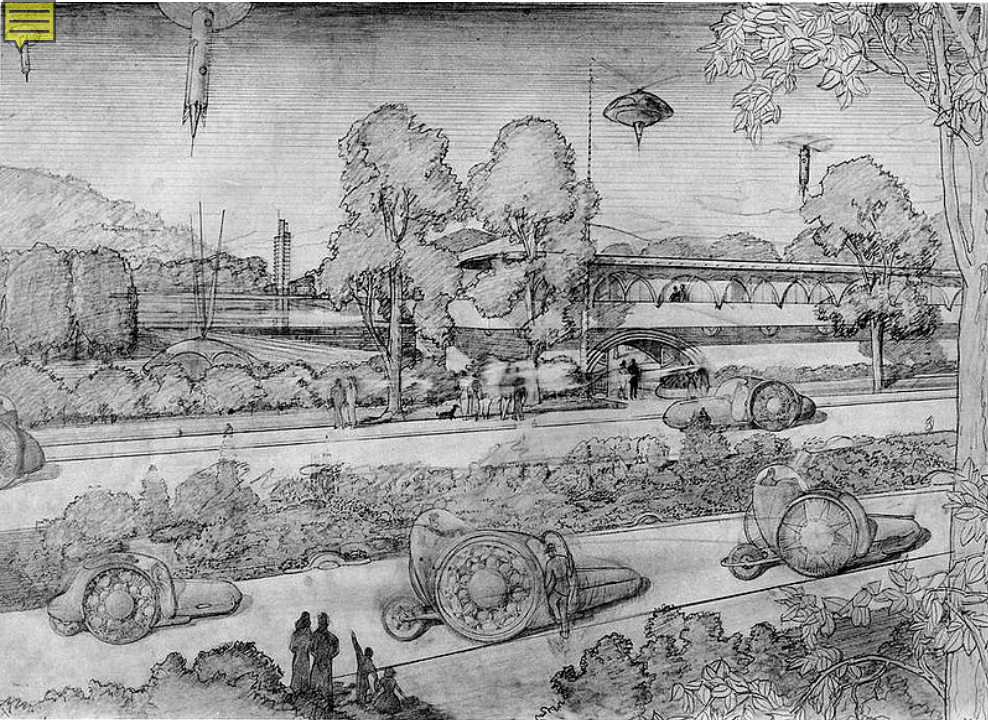
Architecture & planning are design problems, where there is no one “correct” or “optimal” solution. With no optimal solution, values come in.

Aesthetics is the ultimate design problem (Burnett & Evans, 2016)





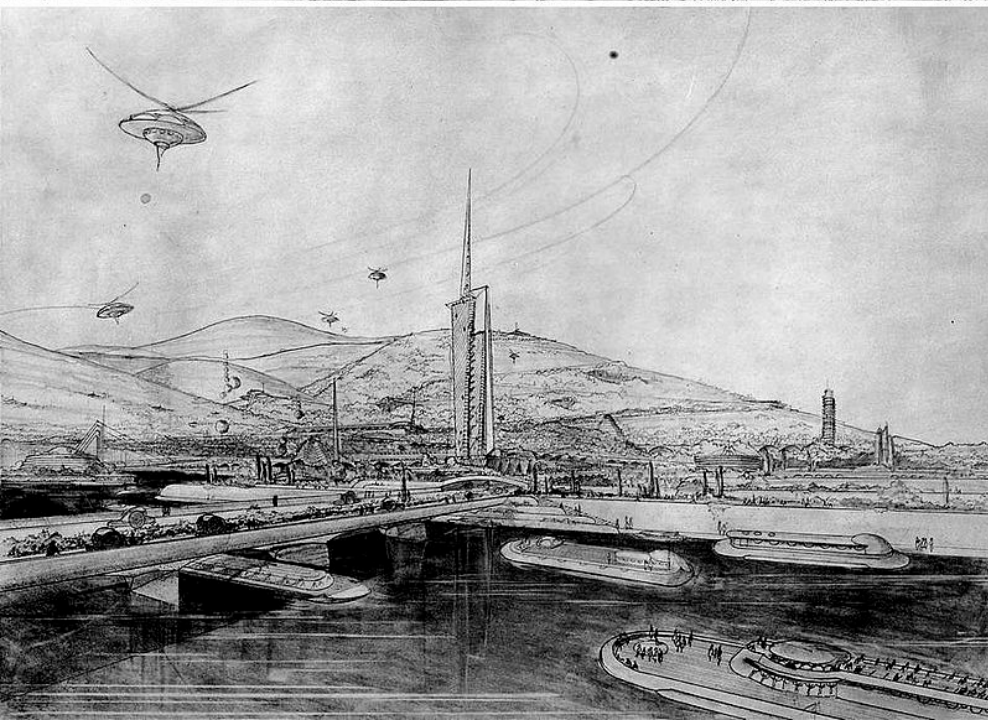
smart cities = no people?



Frank Lloyd Wright

Broadacre City 1932

Each family given 1 acre
(4000 m²) of land



“...a new standard of space
measurement—the man
seated in his automobile.”



Value Clashes in Smart & Sustainable Cities

- Efficiency & optimization vs. Individual freedom
 - Humans as consumers or nodes in a larger system
 - Manipulated and optimized
 - Efficiency and cost-saving the primary objective
- Top down (big infrastructure) vs. Bottom up (participatory design)
 - Top down has can be expensive
 - Citizens feel that something is being imposed on them
 - The cleverest technological solution is quite useless if nobody adopts it
- Smart cities versus Smart citizens

*Corporate
smart city at
its worst*



*Art, beauty, and the creative process
are rarely optimized, efficient or cost-
saving. Instead, they emphasize
individual experience and expression*

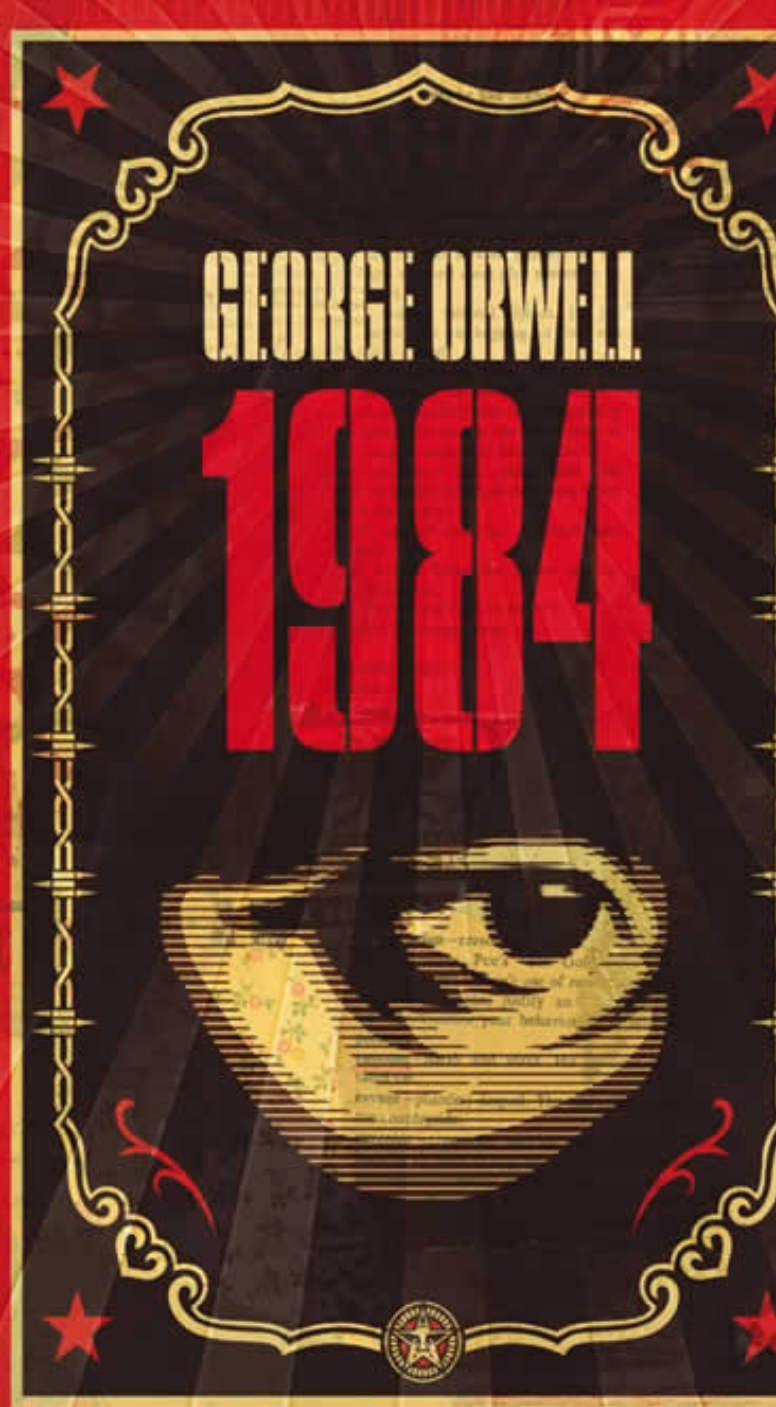
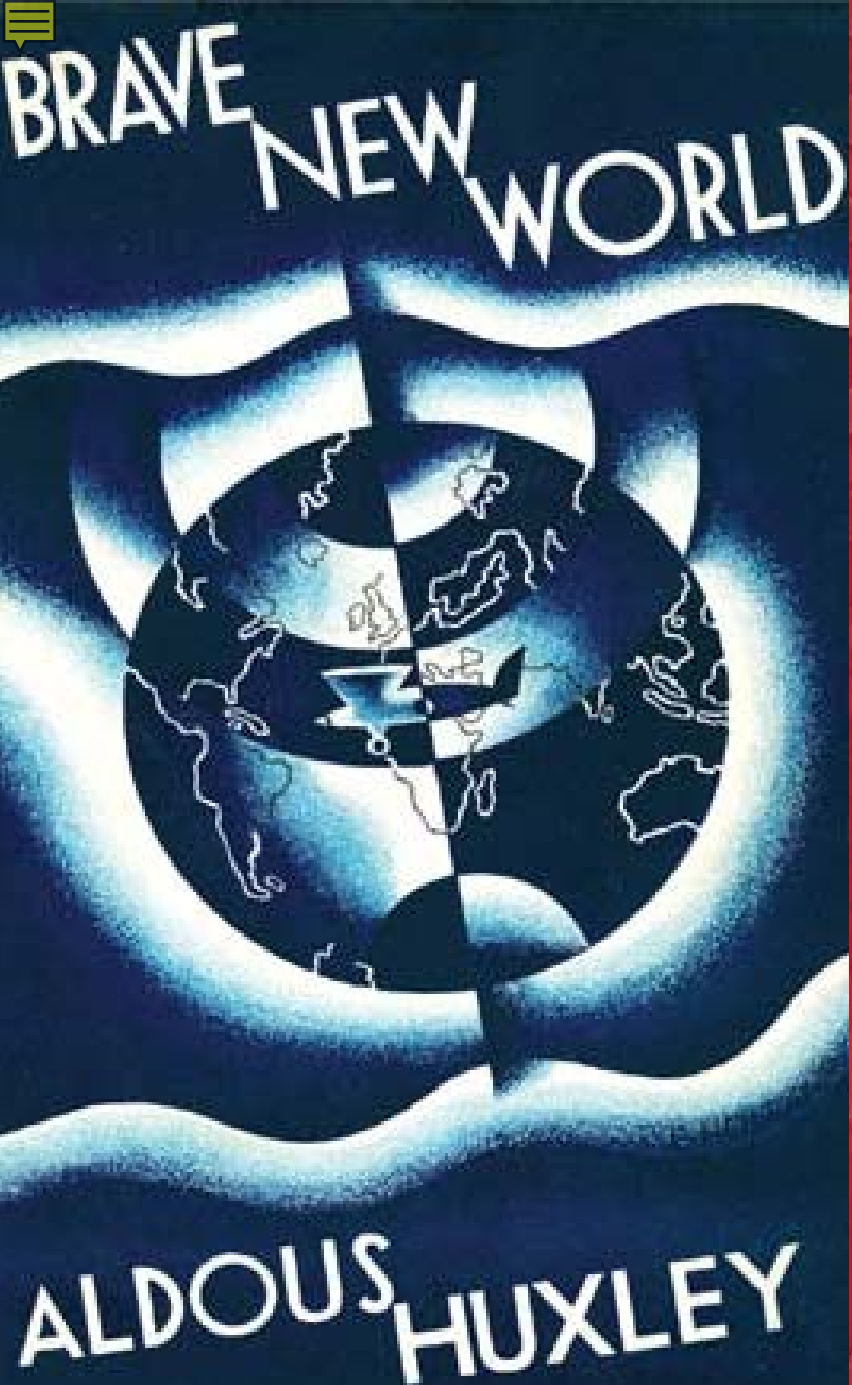


Visions

“Imagination is the key to pre-experiencing alternative futures.” -György Kepes

Imagination here is understood as a way of seeing, sensing, thinking, and dreaming that creates the conditions for material interventions *in*, and political sensibilities *of* the world. ... it is a site of interplay between material and perceptual worlds, (Kathryn Yusoff and Jennifer Gabrys, 2011)

- Speculate design: more about using design to explore hypothetical and potential futures, rather than producing a useful, market-ready artifact.
- Futuring: a systematic process for envisioning the future, including planning for possible outcomes





Not a lot further they came to the old port. The heavy steel containers raised before them. They were rusty, and some of the stacks had collapsed. They swam through the container city, even though Fischer didn't like it too much... ...Fischer thought that, even though the old world seemed so very fascinating, the most fascinating thing about humankind was its ability to adapt. (The Old City, Lærke Philipsen, 2015)

"Yesterday one of the AirCars of Amsterdam was involved in a fatal accident. We send our condolences to the relatives of the deceased couple. However, it should also be said that the AirCars still remain the safest means of transportation. Our technicians have evaluated the accident and concluded that the cause of the accident could only be user error, wherefore we as manufacturer cannot be accountable for consequences of incorrect or irresponsible use of the vehicle. Thus, we do not take any responsibility of the accident." (Moving in Together, Amalie Petersen, 2015)

Toby informs Karl of his decision "I wish to leave the city, this place is ruining me, I am just a cog in the machine." Karl pauses momentarily "You understand, once you leave you cannot come back, that is it." In the corner a young lady is sitting smoking something Toby has never smelt, a substance, green in colour, looking slightly fluffy. She sits there content, almost happy. Karl notices him looking confused "Don't worry about that, this is our alternative to the productivity pills." (Productivity, Elliot Neale, 2015)



Engagement

- Infrastructure is designed to be invisible, yet
 - Underground infrastructure is de-politicizing
 - Needs to be visible to be political
- We want people to be engaged in the democratic state



Art in the smart city

- Art as subversion and social commentary
- Art as beauty
- Art as awareness
- Art as engagement
- Art as activism and empowerment



Dead drops, NYC

Art as subversion and social commentary





Tree.0 Copenhagen

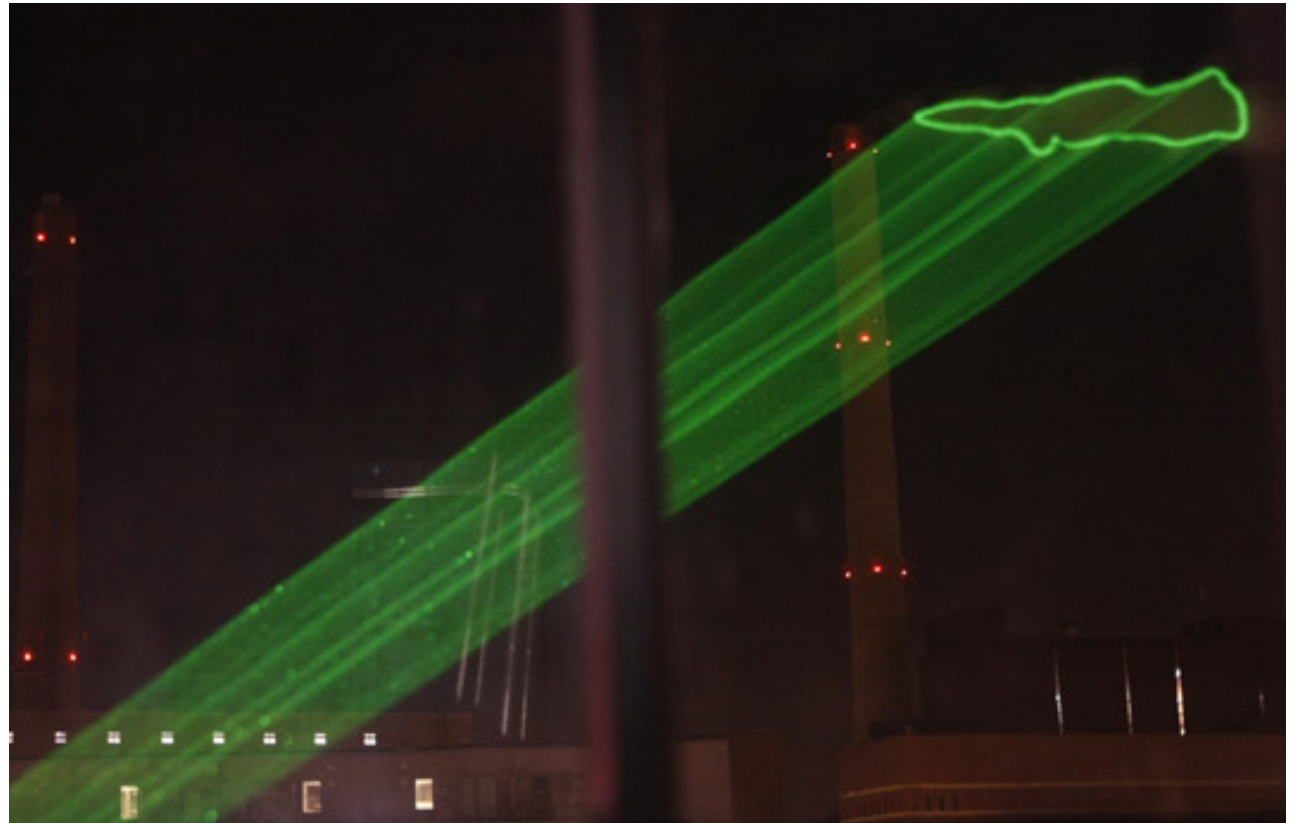
Interactive ambient installation





Nuage Vert, Helsinki

Raise awareness



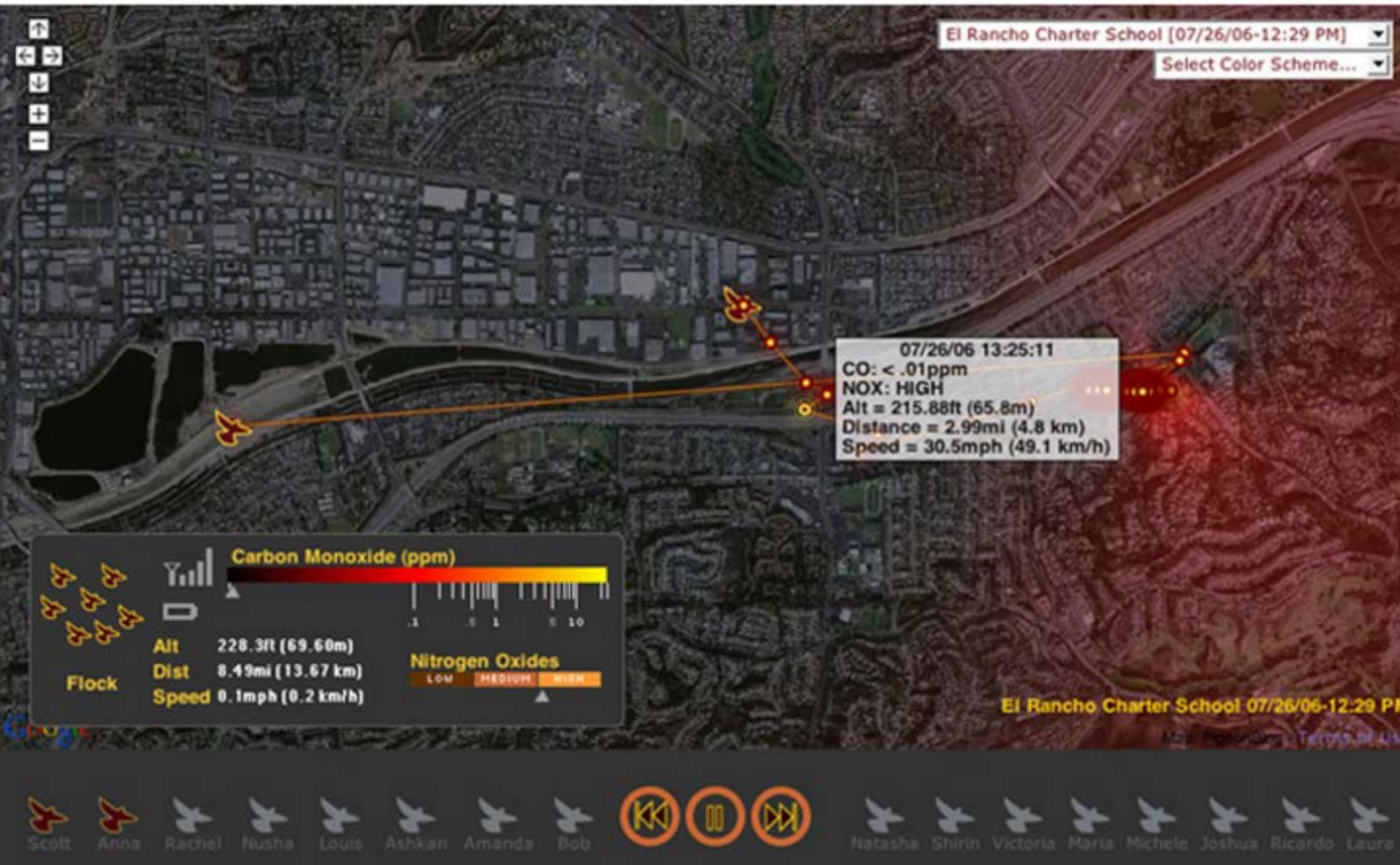


Cycle-in Cinema: Part of “We make this city”, Sydney

Art as engagement

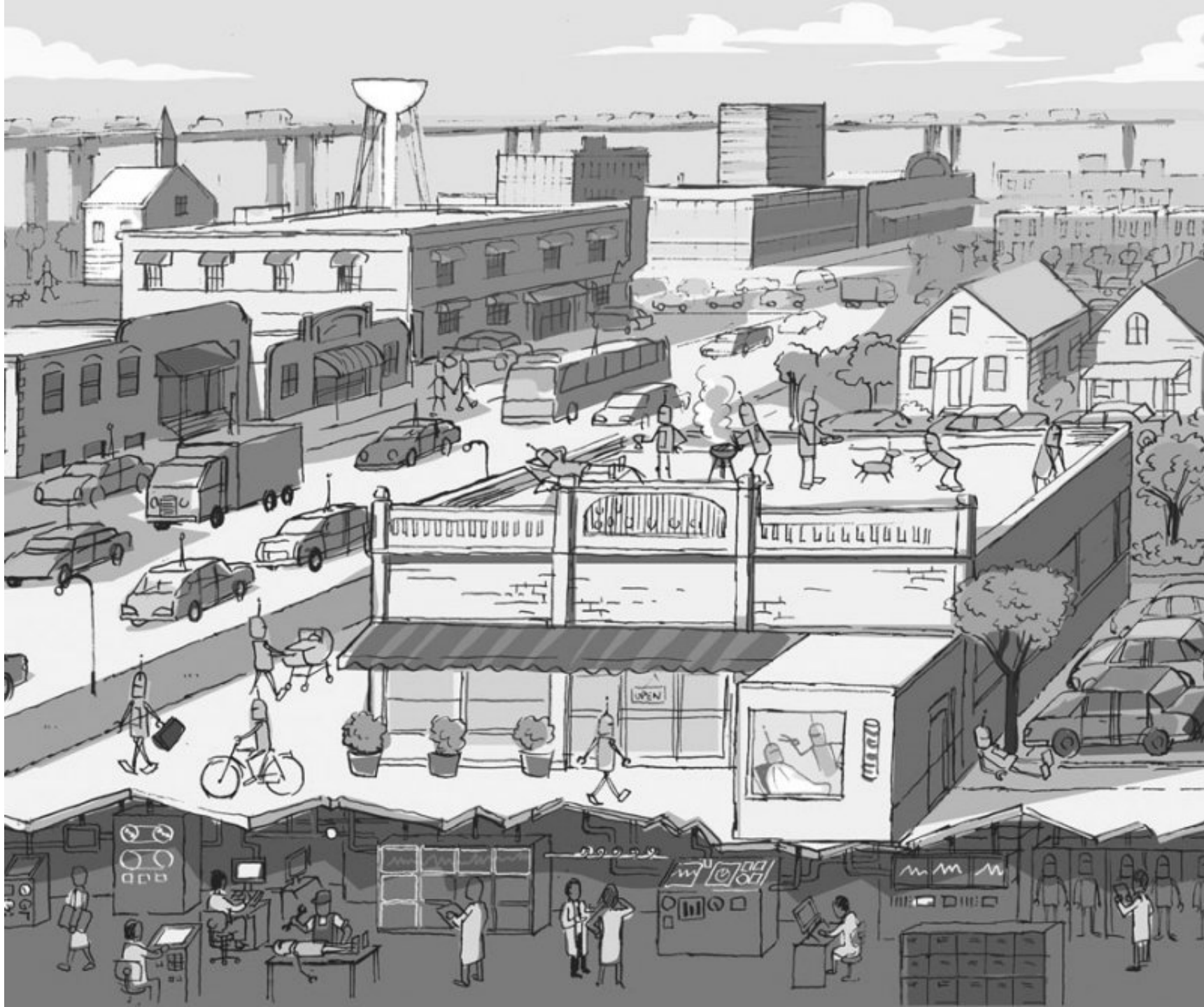


Pigeon blog, Southern California



Beatriz da Costa

Art as activism and
social empowerment



Thank you!